

lege of Dental Surgery, out of which our present dental school grew, was an event of such significance as to evoke that feeling of pride.

It is fitting, therefore, that we commemorate the event and pay tribute to the men who established the school, and by so doing, laid the foundation for the profession of dentistry. Dr. Horace H. Hayden, the first president, and Dr. Chapin A. Harris, the first dean and second president of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, were truly men of broad vision and deep understanding. They saw the inadequacy of the instruction of dentistry in the schools of medicine, realized the great difficulty they would encounter in trying to improve the instruction and set about to establish an independent school of dentistry.

After the college was chartered by the Maryland General Assembly in February, 1840, and the institution organized shortly thereafter, Dr. Hayden and Dr. Harris began their lectures the following fall to the five students who had matriculated in the first class. From this modest and not altogether auspicious beginning, then, grew this great institution which has trained thousands of dentists over the past century and a quarter. Not only that, the college became the prototype for schools of dentistry not only of this country but of the entire world. And thus, Maryland has made a unique contribution to education and to civilization.

But as proud as we are of this achievement, it would be desecration of the eminence of men like Harris and Hayden if we displayed a spirit of apathy and complacency in the face of the challenges which confront us today. To do proper honor to them in this commemorative year, we must show a concern for the good health of the people comparable to that displayed by them one-hundred and twenty-five years ago. We must have an understanding they had of their problems in 1840. And we must have a vision of the future comparable with the vision they had when they set up the college of dental surgery here in Baltimore. We revere our past. We glory in the achievements of illustrious ancestors, but we know, in the words of one poet, that "past is prologue," and of another, that "all our past acclaims our future." And so, we must move out boldly, as did Hayden and Harris in 1840, to meet the challenges of our day—a challenge to improve the standards of your great profession, a challenge to meet in a more effective manner the health needs of the people of this State, this nation and the world.

It is my belief tonight that we stand on the threshold of new ad-